

# 2014 SkillsUSA Kentucky

Leadership Conference &  
Skills Championship  
April 16-19 - Louisville, KY

## Carpentry 1

**Co-Sponsored by:**  
**Home Builders**  
**Association of KY**  
**and**

**Messer Construction Co.**

*Lumber for project donated by NILCO*

*Held at the Indiana/Kentucky/Ohio  
Regional Council of Carpenters Training Center*

*Written by: Fran Dundon, SkillsUSA KY B & I Director  
Photos by Tim Thornberry*

***Educated and Skilled  
to Lead America***

# Messer

**WeAreBuilding.**



***Carpentry 1 winners with their prizes***



***Back row (l to r): Daren Thompson, K4C President;  
Lora Knight, HBAK; and Robby Cashen, Messer  
Construction Co.***

***Front row (l to r): Justin Burchfield, Southside TC (2<sup>nd</sup>);  
Ernesto Vasquez, Pulaski Co. ATC (3<sup>rd</sup>); and Tyler Dix,  
Meade Co. ATC (1<sup>st</sup>).***

# **2014 SkillsUSA Kentucky Carpentry 1**

## **Sponsored by HBAK and Messer Construction Co.**

### **Lumber donated by NILCO**

### **Planter Box project donated to “Active Heroes”**

SkillsUSA KY competitors and partnerships once again provided the most important ingredients for the 2014 SkillsUSA KY state conference. For a second year, the Carpentry 1 competition was jointly sponsored by the Home Builders Association of Kentucky (HBAK) and Messer Construction Company.

This year, Messer Construction employees Robby Arrasmith and Robbie Cashen stepped up to chair the competition along with long time chairpersons Lora Werner and Mac Crawford from the HBAK. The HBAK and Messer Construction Co. each provided a donation to support this competition. And, lumber for the project was donated by NILCO. The combined sponsorship made an impact on the competitors, their advisors and school administrators.

In addition to students having an opportunity to compete under the keen eyes of professionals, the contest took on a new dimension this year. Joey Summers, a Messer Construction employee who served as last year's chairman, introduced the idea of donating the competition project (Planter Box) to a worthy organization called “Active Heroes.” He introduced SkillsUSA KY B & I director Fran Dundon to Troy Yocum, president of the organization. Yocum was invited to the SkillsUSA KY opening ceremony to say a few words about his organization and relayed that veterans would benefit as a result of the donation. He received a standing ovation and many SkillsUSA KY chapters are now interested in helping his cause. In fact, projects from the carpentry (picnic table) and welding fabrication (grill) contests were also donated to Active Heroes.

“As community service is an integral part of SkillsUSA, the whole scenario allowed us to set a great example at the state level,” said Dundon. “Students not only competed for gold, they provided gold to their country's veterans. How patriotic is this? And, our members will always remember that they have helped an American hero. We thank Joey Summers for bringing Active Heroes to our attention.”

**For more information regarding Active Heroes, visit: <http://activeheroes.org/>**

# Fran Dundon recognizes Robby Arrasmith Messer Construction Co.



*Arrasmith accepts Power Partner plaque from Dundon.*

# Messer

**WeAreBuilding.**

**Robby Arrasmith  
Senior Project Manager  
Messer Construction:**

*"It was great to see so many skilled young people. I could feel the excitement in the air at the SkillsUSA KY Opening Ceremony. In the end, it was a very impressive group of students and I personally found it honorable that so many competition items were donated to Active Heroes."*

*"Messer Construction is happy to be partners with SkillsUSA because this competition produces skilled people that we want in our company and on our team!"*

**Dundon:**

*"The Messer connection provides SkillsUSA KY with valuable industry judges, a pathway to employment for our competitors and great individuals to work with over the course of the year. As a result, students now have confidence that business and industry are actively involved and interested in them."*

*"On behalf of SkillsUSA KY, I want to personally thank Robby Arrasmith and Joey Summers for making it a priority to involve Messer Construction Co. in SkillsUSA. And, thank you to Robby Cashen for becoming a chair this year."*

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.messer.com/>



# Fran Dundon recognizes Lora Knight of the HBAK



*Photo, left to right:  
Fran Dundon and Lora Knight,  
Director of Member Services, HBAK.*

*HBAK was recognized during the opening  
session for prize sponsorship and  
industry judges.*

## ***Knight:***

*“The Home Builders Association of Kentucky is proud to support SkillsUSA Kentucky. When judging the Carpentry 1 event, we get to see first-hand that the future of our industry is in good hands.*

*“We look forward to a continuous relationship and hope that our contribution is making a difference in a young person’s life choices.”*



## ***Dundon:***

*“On behalf of SkillsUSA KY, thank you HBAK for your continued support of our organization and the Carpentry 1 competition. Our students realize the impact of your support and appreciate the professional service you are providing to them.*

*“It’s a natural fit for all of us to work together because our mutually beneficial partnership provides successful outcomes for everyone.”*

For more information, visit: <http://www.hbak.com/>

# Bill Hoffeld, NILCO recognized during Opening Ceremony for lumber donation



*Hoffeld:*

*"I'm proud to say that my involvement with SkillsUSA KY was one of the most life changing events in my career. NILCO got involved for one very obvious reason. We do not have enough young people trained to move into the businesses that support the construction segment. The funnel is empty and companies that thrive on this segment need skilled individuals to take the place of our aging industry."*

*"NILCO recognizes that this national organization needs support from the very people that will hire employees to fill this funnel. Our donation to Carpentry and TeamWorks was one way to support these dedicated high school individuals. Our next opportunity for support is the K4C Construction Career Days Event in September."*

*"Thank you for opening our eyes to this great organization."*

For more information, visit: <http://www.nilco.net/>

**Carpentry projects need supplies and this year, NILCO, a family owned national industrial lumber company, donated all the lumber for the carpentry 1 competition as well as products for other events and winning schools.**

**Bill Hoffeld, NILCO Outside Sales Representative, was responsible for introducing the SkillsUSA KY business team to NILCO president Jim Smith and the result was company support and a great donation. Additionally, Smith's daughter Lydia took part in the job/career fair because they need skilled labor. The entire SkillsUSA KY nation appreciates the support of NILCO.**

# 2014 SkillsUSA Kentucky Carpentry 1 Winner

## Tyler Dix, Meade Co. ATC - 1st place

*Tyler working on his planter box during competition.*



**Dix:**

*"The Carpentry 1 competition was many things, but easy was not one of them. I enjoyed the competitiveness of the event, and I won some great prizes, thanks to Messer Construction Co. and HBAK."*

*"There are numerous things that I have yet to learn, and my peers and instructor have taught me to use my resources to overcome challenges and adversity in my pursuit of a career in carpentry. I have learned that tools are not your only equipment, but you have to utilize your mind as a tool also. My advice to future competitors is to use all of these tools to the best of your ability."*

*"Again, thank you to our sponsors. Your support is noticed and appreciated."*

**Faye Campbell, Principal  
Meade Co. ATC:**

*"It is wonderful to see so many business and industry representatives being such great partners with Kentucky SkillsUSA. The sponsorship of the contests, supplying of judges and prizes makes it more meaningful to students. They realize to a greater extent that the skills they are learning are important to their futures in the workforce."*

*"Our Carpentry 1 winner won some fabulous prizes that he can use on the job as a carpenter. The contest was a learning experience and has made him eager to participate in SkillsUSA next year. Thank you to the HBAK and Messer Construction Co. Your valuable contributions make a difference."*



# **2014 SkillsUSA Kentucky Carpentry 1**

## **Justin Burchfield, Southside Technical Center**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



#### ***Burchfield:***

***"I am very thankful for Messer Construction Company and HBAK for awarding my first set of tools. Industry support is great and I'll use my DeWALT tools."***

#### ***Daryn Morris, Principal Southside Technical Center:***

***"SkillsUSA is a wonderful opportunity for our students. When business and industry step in to support the contests, validity is added to them which helps the contestants realize that the industry is interested in what they are doing and the skills they have attained. The SkillsUSA opportunity is then extra special to the contestants and winners. I would like to thank all the sponsors for supporting SkillsUSA Kentucky."***

# Ernesto Vasquez

## Pulaski Co. ATC

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place



**Vasquez:**

*"As a senior, this was my first year in the carpentry program. It has been such a wonderful experience, I plan on pursuing a degree in carpentry next year."*

*Thank you to Messer Construction Company and the Home Builders Association of Kentucky for judging and sponsoring the competition. My tool prizes were awesome."*



**Chairman Robby Cashen takes a moment to talk with students after the competition**



**Robby Cashen**  
**Messer Construction Co.**  
**SkillsUSA KY Carpentry Chairman:**

*"For the second year in a row, I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Messer Construction Co. at the SkillsUSA KY Carpentry One competition. I thoroughly enjoyed leading the event with such a fine group of skilled craftsmen who are within a year or two of joining the workforce. I look forward to working with and leading this group in the future."*



# Troy Yocum (Active Heroes President) visits Carpenters Union to thank competitors, see skilled projects

**Troy Yocum**  
**Kentucky Colonel**  
**Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran**  
**Active Heroes Founder and President**  
**Congressional Medal of Honor Citizen Honors Medal:**

***“Active Heroes is thrilled to work with SkillsUSA to help with our military family retreat! The experience has been amazing to see so many young adults helping to build picnic tables, grills and planter boxes that will be used by thousands of veterans and their families. We can't thank the wonderful people with SkillsUSA enough for their support of our American heroes!”***



***Former SkillsUSA KY officers Dakota Bray, Zach Evrard, Kristi Reeves and Jason Ballman – and former SkillsUSA KY member Cody Wilson helped load and deliver projects to the Active Heroes Retreat. Kudos to each for their efforts.***

**Joey Summers**  
**Messer Construction Co:**

***"Messer always appreciates the opportunity to work with the future of our industry. The fact that the finished products are being donated to the Active Heroes Retreat and helping our veterans makes it that much more rewarding. We look forward to continuing this relationship well into the future."***



***Dundon, Ronnie Boggs, Carpenters Union; Yocum, Summers, and Larry Johnson, SkillsUSA KY state director.***

***Story and layout by***  
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